

5-POINT 3-12 WRITER'S RUBRIC

SENTENCE FLUENCY

5 The writing has an easy flow, rhythm, and cadence. Sentences are well built, with strong and varied structure that invites expressive oral reading.

- A. Sentences are constructed in a way that underscores and enhances the **meaning**.
- B. Sentences **vary in length as well as structure**. Fragments, if used, add style. Dialogue, if present, sounds natural.
- C. **Purposeful and varied sentence beginnings** add variety and energy.
- D. The use of **creative and appropriate connectives** between sentences and thoughts shows how each relates to, and builds upon, the one before it.
- E. The writing has **cadence**; the writer has thought about the sound of the words as well as the meaning. The first time you read it aloud is a breeze.

3 The text hums along with a steady beat, but tends to be more pleasant or businesslike than musical, more mechanical than fluid.

- A. Although sentences may not seem artfully crafted or musical, they get the job done in a routine fashion.
- B. Sentences are usually constructed correctly; they hang together; they are sound.
- C. Sentence beginnings are not ALL alike; some variety is attempted.
- D. The reader sometimes has to hunt for clues (e.g., connecting words and phrases like however, therefore, naturally, after a while, on the other hand, to be specific, for example, next, first of all, later, but as it turned out, although, etc.) that show how sentences interrelate.
- E. Parts of the text invite expressive oral reading; others may be stiff, awkward, choppy, or gangly.

1 The reader has to practice quite a bit in order to give this paper a fair interpretive reading. The writing reflects more than one of the following problems:

- A. Sentences are choppy, incomplete, rambling or awkward; they need work. Phrasing does not sound natural. The patterns may create a sing-song rhythm, or a chop-chop cadence that lulls the reader to sleep.
- B. There is little to no "sentence sense" present. Even if this piece was flawlessly edited, the sentences would not hang together.
- C. Many sentences begin the same way—and may follow the same patterns (e.g., subject-verb-object) in a monotonous pattern.
- D. Endless connectives (and, and so, but then, because, and then, etc.) or a complete lack of connectives create a massive jumble of language.
- E. The text does not invite expressive oral reading.